

I'm Not a Name, I'm a Number 哈珀· 赛文

英语学习点: *Naming Conventions* 取名习惯

Is it a name or is it a number? David and Victoria Beckham have continued the tradition of naming their children with words not normally considered forenames by calling their daughter 'Seven'. Yes, that's right, Seven. As in the number 7. But there's a difference this time: they've reserved the more memorable moniker for their little girl's middle name.



Why have the Beckhams named their daughter after a number?

Instead of conventional Christian names, the first three Beckham kids received - in order of birth - the name of a district of New York (Brooklyn), the title of Shakespeare's most famous character (Romeo) and the Spanish word for 'cross' (Cruz). Meanwhile, their middle names are the more down-to-earth Joseph, James and David.

The latest addition to Team Beckham reverses the pattern with the unusual, yet heard-of, first name Harper. David revealed on Facebook that they named their daughter after Harper Lee, the author of Victoria's favourite novel.

It was the middle name which provoked most speculation. Some were suggesting it has great significance for David Beckham because it was the number he wore on his shirt as a Manchester United and England player. Others claim they chose Seven because she was born in July.

However, David revealed all by saying the number symbolises spiritual perfection, the Seven Wonders of the World and the seven colours of the rainbow.

The Beckhams have always gone freestyle with their children's names, but with Harper Seven they are actually following an established British naming convention of making the middle name the more unusual one. Often they are a relative's name, which can be embarrassingly old-fashioned.

Quiz 测验

阅读短文并回答问题。

1. Is 'Seven' a typical English name?
2. Do David Beckham's other children have unusual middle names?
3. Has Victoria Beckham ever read a book?
4. Did they choose the name Seven because it was David Beckham's old shirt number?
5. Are people sometimes embarrassed by their middle names?

Exercise 练习

请你在不参考课文的情况下完成下列练习。从每个表格中选择一个语法正确且意思合适的单词填入句子的空格处。

1. David and Victoria Beckham _____ their daughter Harper Seven.

name	named	naming	numbered
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2. They named their daughter _____ a novelist.

for	with	because	after
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3. The number seven has great _____.

significance	signify	significant	significantly
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4. According to Beckham, seven is a _____ number.

symbol	symbolic	symbolically	symbolise
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5. Some middle names are embarrassing because they are _____.

old-fashionable	old-fashion	old-fashions	old-fashioned
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Answers and Glossary 答案与词汇

Quiz 小测验

1. Is 'Seven' a typical English name? No. David and Victoria Beckham have continued the tradition of naming their children with words not normally considered forenames by calling their daughter 'Seven'.
2. Do David Beckham's other children have unusual middle names? No. Their middle names are the more down-to-earth Joseph, James and David.
3. Has Victoria Beckham ever read a book? Yes. They named their daughter after Harper Lee, the author of Victoria's favourite novel.
4. Did they choose the name Seven because it was David Beckham's old shirt number? No. David revealed all by saying the number symbolises spiritual perfection.
5. Are people sometimes embarrassed by their middle names? Yes. Often they are a relative's name, which can be embarrassingly old-fashioned.

Exercise 练习

1. David and Victoria Beckham named their daughter Harper Seven.
2. They named their daughter after a novelist.
3. The number seven has great significance.
4. According to Beckham, seven is a symbolic number.
5. Some middle names are embarrassing because they are old-fashioned.

Glossary 词汇表

naming 取名	forenames (外国人) 名
calling 叫(某人名字)	moniker 名字, 绰号
middle name 中间名	Christian name 受洗礼时起的名字, 教名
down-to-earth 朴实的	to name (someone) after (someone) 以(某人名字)给(某人)起名
to provoke speculation 引起猜测	to have (great) significance for 有重大意义
to reveal all 透露所有秘密	to symbolise 象征
Seven Wonders of the World 世界七大奇迹	to go freestyle 自由随性的
naming convention 取名习惯	old-fashioned 传统老套的